GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1269
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2016
Himachal Tourism Survey
Marutharajaa Shri R.P.;Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has ever assessed the tourism potential of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab in consultation with the State Governments and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Government is planning to undertake a study on carrying capacity of tourist destinations of Himachal Pradesh and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government has issued/proposes to issue any directions to State Governments to maintain cleanliness and for regulation on unauthorized constructions at main tourist spots and if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether the Government plans to set up Special Tourism Zones in certain States specially Himachal Pradesh owing to its large tourism potential; and
(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a), (b), (d) & (e): Assessing tourism potential, undertaking study on carrying capacity of tourist destinations, setting up of Special Tourism zones is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments and Union territories. The State Government of Punjab has informed that they have conducted a study through UNWTO and based on that study, Infrastructure Development Investment Programme for Tourism (IDIPT) is being implemented through Asian Development Bank (ADB) funding.

The Ministry of Tourism conducted a study during 2012-13 for identification of tourism circuits/destination which included the State of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh.

For the State of Himachal Pradesh, three circuits were identified and based on their carrying capacity assessment and tourism potential; Chandigarh-Bilaspur-Mandu-Kullu-Manali-Manikaran circuit was proposed as the priority circuit for the State of Himachal Pradesh.

For the State of Punjab, four circuits were identified and based on their carrying capacity assessment and tourism potential, Sikh circuit was proposed as the priority circuit i.e. Punj Takhts in Punjab (The three Takhts are Akal Takht in Amritsar, Srikesh Sahib in Anandpur and Sri Damdama Sahib at Talwand Sabo Bhatinda district and prominent Gurdwaras in Punjab).

(c): The Ministry of Tourism launched a Campaign Clean India in 2012-13 to sensitize all sections of society on the importance of cleanliness and hygiene and to ensure an acceptable level of cleanliness and hygiene practices at tourist destination. The campaign is a blend of persuasion, education, training and demonstration.

For the State of Himachal Pradesh, the destinations identified under Campaign Clean India are a group of temples in Chamba, Shimla Mall Road in Shimla, Dalhousie, Khajiar in Dalhousie.

For the State of Punjab the destinations identified under Campaign Clean India are Jallianwala Bagh and approach to Golden Temple in Amritsar.

With a vision to ensure an acceptable level of cleanliness at tourist destinations/tourist spots the Ministry of Tourism has taken following initiatives under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan: -

(i) Swachh Bharat −Swachh Smarak- an initiative to see a cleaner India for protecting and preserving the sanctity of monuments of national heritage.
(ii) Swachh Bharat-Swachh Pakwan-this initiative is aimed at upgrading the skills and hygiene standards of Street Food Vendors in partnership with the National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI).
(iii) Swachh Bharat-Swachh Paryatan-all States/UTs were asked to assess the requirement of toilet facilities at all popular tourist sites. All industry associations were requested to motivate their members to install the 'Organic waste to Compost' Machines in their premises, which converts organic waste into compost in just 24 hours.

Under Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD Schemes the Ministry of Tourism provide Central Financial Assistance to States/UT's for Infrastructure development including wayside amenities, garbage bins, sewerage/effluent disposal, etc.

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